

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF TETRANYCHID MITE FROM CALIFORNIA

By E. A. MCGREGOR, *Whittier, Calif.*

Monoceronychus, new genus

This is an aberrant mite, and any attempt to associate it with known genera has been futile. In common with *Bryobia* and the *Tenuipalpus* complex it has the precephalothoracic plate, but it lacks the tarsal claws of these genera. It bears some resemblance to *Tetranychina* in the structure of the palpus and the leg-joint proportions, but differs from this genus in many respects. *Monoceronychus* is herewith described by the following characters:

Body flattened, twice as long as wide, bearing dorsally 16 clavate-foliaceous setae, and on caudal margin 6 similar setae, these all borne on tubercles; a suture separating cephalothorax from abdomen. Two eye corneae on each side even with coxae II. A restricted plate projecting from the anterior margin of cephalothorax, bearing a median finger-like process, and laterally 2 strong tubercles from each of which arises a foliaceous seta. Legs I longest, but much shorter than body; tarsus I shorter than preceding joint. Tip of tarsus devoid of claws, but bearing 2 pairs of longish tenent hairs between which arises a double series of short tenent hairs. Palpus evidently of 4 segments, the last forming a "thumb" to the third segment which is produced dorsoapically into a strong claw. Anus ventral, near caudal end; female genital opening just in front of anus.

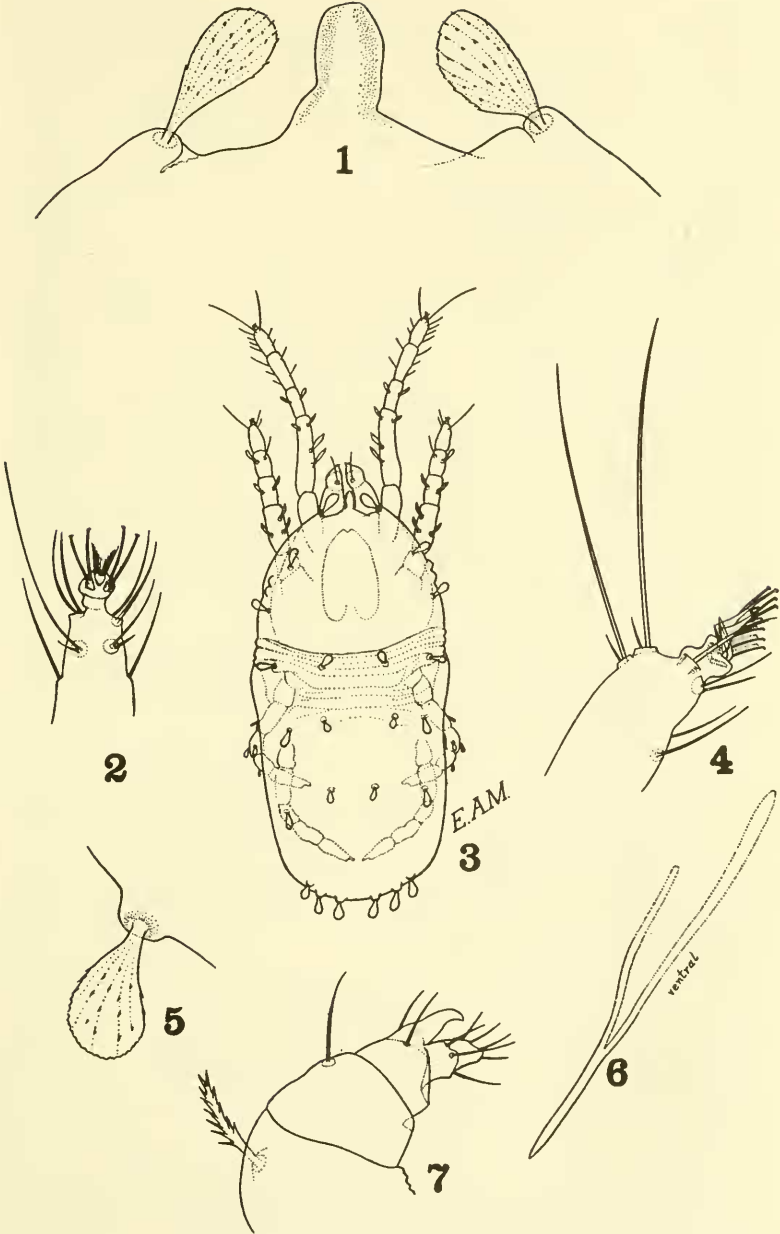
Genotype.—*Monoceronychus californicus*, n. sp.

Monoceronychus californicus, new species

Female.—Length, 0.33 mm. Much flattened mites, elongate-elliptical in outline, length to front of cephalothorax fully twice as great as width. Two eye corneae each side even with coxae II. Mandibular plate wide, subrectangular, tapering slightly in front to a blunt, notched tip. Cephalothorax between one-third and one-half as long as body, separated from abdomen by a suture; a series of transverse lines in the dorsal integument behind the main suture. Dorsal cuticular integument nonreticulated, but with weak, scattered striae. Sixteen widely clavate or foliaceous setae, arising from tubercles, on the dorsum in five transverse rows as follows: One over trochanters II, one behind the eyes,

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

Monoceronychus californicus. Fig. 1, anterior plate of cephalothorax with two lobes bearing foliaceous setae, and median "unicorn." Fig. 2, tip of tarsus of female, viewed dorsally. Fig. 3, female mite, viewed dorsally. Fig. 4, tip of tarsus of right leg I of female, viewed laterally. Fig. 5, last seta at caudal tip of female. Fig. 6, penis, viewed laterally. Fig. 7, palpus of female, viewed laterally.



a series of four behind the main suture, a series of four between legs III and IV, and a series of four even with the middle of legs IV; six foliaceous setae along the caudal margin of abdomen. The front margin of cephalothorax aberrant in that it bears medially a projecting, free, fingerlike process, and this is flanked on either side by a strong tubercle, bearing an ample feather- or scale-like seta. Legs I longest, but only about four-sevenths as long as body; other legs subequal, unusually short; the femur of leg I much the longest segment, tarsus I not longer than preceding segment. Tip of tarsus devoid of claws, bearing two pairs of longish knobbed tenent hairs between which is a pulvillus bearing a paired series of numerous shorter tenent hairs. Dorsoterminally the tarsi of legs I bear two tactile hairs, longer than the joint itself, and a very short spine-like seta arises close to the base of each of these. A collar trachea could not be discerned. Palpi evidently of four segments; the first bearing dorsally a strong, pectinate seta; the third segment produced dorsally into a strong claw, barely as long as the last segment ("thumb"); "thumb" bearing six or seven needle-like setae. Anus ventral, near caudal end; genital opening just in front of anus; anus bordered by three pairs of setae; four additional setae across caudal end of venter. Venter of rostrum with a pair of simple hairs anteriorly, and a similar pair of setae below coxae I.

Male.—Body outline resembling that of female. All setae of legs appear to be nonfoliaceous. Palpus lacking the hornlike spur dorsally, common with certain tetranychid mites. Penis with inner portion cylindrical, tapering backward to form the styliform distal portion.

Type slide, U. S. N. M. Cat. No. 1466.

The type material is from Laguna Beach, Calif., September 6, 1937, from tufted "salt grass," probably *Distichlis spicata* (L.) Greene, collected by the author.

MINUTES OF THE 552d REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1945

The 552d regular meeting of the Society was held Thursday, February 1, 1945, at 8 P. M., in Room 43 of the National Museum. President Poos presided and there were 44 members and 20 visitors present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

President Poos reported that at a meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 10, 1945, Mr. C. F. W. Muesebeck was selected as the nominee to represent this Society as Vice President of the Washington Academy of Sciences. At the last annual meeting Mr. Rohwer was chosen for this office. There was a misunderstanding as Mr. Rohwer is no longer a member of the Washington Academy and is, therefore, ineligible to represent this Society in the Washington Academy.

Mr. J. S. Wade and Mr. H. G. Barber were appointed by Dr. Poos to prepare for publication in the Proceedings an obituary notice of William T. Davis.

Capt. Willis W. Wirth of the U. S. Public Health Service was elected to membership in the Society.